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A TABLET REFERRING TO DUES PAID TO THE  
TEMPLE OF THE SUN AT SIPPARA.

3. 丁巳年正月十五日  
丁巳年正月十五日

6. 丁巳年正月十五日



This tablet is one of more than ordinary interest, for it seems to relate to the substitution of an offering of a certain kind of merchandize for the single head of cattle due, and has a drawing of the animal (a humped bull) on the back. The tablet is  $1\frac{3}{8}$  in. high by  $1\frac{7}{8}$  in. long, and was acquired by the Rev. Dr. W. Hayes Ward in Babylonia. The following is a transcription of the cuneiform text:—

1. Ḥamšet (D. P.) gi-la-du makkuru
2. ina lib-bi ešt-en ša alpu šu-nu-u
3. (D. P.) Itti- (D. P.) Šamaš-balaṭu a-na Ê-bar-ra
4. it-ta-din-nu.
5. Arah Tebêti, ûmu samnu, šattu [šiššerit?]
6. (D. P.) Nabû-na'id, šar Bâbîli (D. S.)

*Translation.*

1. 5 skins, exchange (value)
2. for one humped ox
3. Itti-Šamaš-balaṭu to Ê-bara
4. has given.
5. Month Tebet, day 8th, year 16th,
6. Nabonidus, king of Babylon.

The word "giladu," which is preceded by the determinative for skin or leather, is the Heb. גִּלְדָּה, the Arab. جِلْد. "Makkuru" means, literally, "property," "goods."

"Ina libbi ešten ša alpu šunû" means, literally, "in the midst of one which is a humped ox." "Makkuru ina libbi" is apparently an idiomatic expression meaning "value for." The word "šunû," "hump," occurs in the black obelisk, in the dual form:—"gammalâti ša šunâa šêri-šina," "She-camels whose backs were two humps" (Layard's *Inscriptions*, pl. 98, Epigraphs I and III.).

"Ê-bara" also read "Ê-babara") was the name of the well-known temple of the Sun at Sippara (Abu-habbah).

The date "16th year of Nabonidus" is equivalent to the year 539 B. C. The name of Babylon is written with the group "Tin-tir-ki," explained as "šubat balati," "seat of life," an old name of the Akkadian period.

THEO. G. PINCHES.